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Papers

# HAULTAIN DECLARES FOR NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM

Irreconcilable Attitude of Archbishop Langevin.  
Forces Him to Fight Conspiracy of  
Church and Coercionists.

## Haultain's Address to the Electorate

Comes Out Flat-footed in favor of National  
Schools, and Definitely Takes Issue on the  
Ground that Clerical Interference in the Edu-  
cational Affairs of the Province must be  
Resisted.

### To the Electors of Saskatchewan:

The recent publication of the memorandum addressed by the Archbishop of St. Boniface to his clergy in the Province of Saskatchewan, makes it quite plain that the educational clauses of the autonomy bill are the result of a conspiracy, conceived at Ottawa, against the rights and liberties of the Province, and now being aided and abetted by Mr. Walter Scott and his political associates. The motive and design underlying the scheme were made manifest by the speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. R. W. Scott, secretary of state, made in support of the bill.

### Sir Wilfrid Laurier Condemns the Citizens and Schools of the United States.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in introducing the bill, spoke as follows:  
"We live by the side of a nation, a great nation, a nation for which I have the greatest admiration, but whose example I would not take in everything, in whose schools, for fear that Christian dogmas in which all do not believe might be taught—Christian morals are not taught. When I compare these two countries, when I compare Canada with the United States, when I compare the status of the two nations, when I think upon their future, when I observe the social condition of civil society in each of them, and when I observe in this country of ours a total absence of lynchings, and an almost total absence of divorces and murders, for my part, I thank heaven that we are living in a country where the young children of the land are taught Christian morals and Christian dogmas. Either the American system is right or the Canadian system is wrong. For my part, I say this, and I say it without hesitation."

### The Secretary of State Says the School System of the United States is Godless.

R. W. Scott was still more outspoken, as may be seen from the following extract from his speech in the senate:

"I take it that it would be a terrible mistake to introduce the public school system from the United States, ignoring entirely the existence of a God. The effect is visible today in the republic to the south of us. I ask honorable gentlemen, does crime, dishonesty and fraud exist in any part of the world to the extent that it does in the United States? There are more murders committed, more forgeries,

more robberies committed—not, perhaps, stealing as a burglar would steal, but stealing through other sources, stealing by fraudulent methods.

"There is no country in the world where more dishonest practices are carried on than in the United States. Methods are employed which save a man from indictment. That is the criterion; how far can I go and make money safely."

### **The Minister of the Interior Resigned as a Protest Against the Separate School Clauses.**

The resignation of Mr. Sifton, and the substitution of the amended educational clauses served, for a time, to allay the suspicions that these speeches had aroused. I have always contended that the amended clauses were just as bad and far-reaching in their effect as the original draft. That this contention was correct, there can be now no doubt.

Some weeks ago having been shown a copy of the archbishop's memorandum to the Roman Catholics of Saskatchewan, I wrote to his grace, requesting to be furnished with a copy of it. The correspondence which took place is as follows:

Regina, Nov. 14, 1905.

My Lord,—I am informed that a circular letter, addressed by your grace to all your clergy in this province has been read in the churches, and that this letter contains a series of charges against me, in connection with school legislation in the Territories, and my administration of it. As these charges are being used by my political opponents in certain quarters, I should like to be definitely informed as to what they are, and would, therefore, ask your grace to be good enough to furnish me with a copy of the charges.

I have no hesitation in asking for this, as I feel sure that you can have no objection to stating openly any reason which you may have for advising the members of your church to oppose me politically. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

To His Grace, The Lord Archbishop of St. Boniface,  
St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Archbishop's Palace, St. Boniface, Man., Nov. 17, 1905.  
To the Honorable F. Haultain.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of the fourteenth instant. You know as well as I do what you have promised me and how you have fulfilled these promises; you have termed as mere parlor talks. You are also aware of the way in which you have dealt with the few cases where the educational interests of our Catholic people were at stake.

As for what you have said publicly, in Ontario, about our separate schools, and your utterances and deeds in the Territories on the same subject, you need not be reminded of them. The Catholics cannot but resent, dear sir, your unwarranted appeals to racial and religious prejudices, and your threats. We are tempted to believe that you do not care very much for the support of our people who believe in their acquired school rights, according to the constitution.

As for the members of my clergy, I hope none of them have made any public or private appeal to the passions of the people. Allow me to add, dear sir, that I appreciate your remarkable qualities as a statesman, but I regret the stand you take against the Catholics, who are just as good citizens as any other British subjects, and who have no lessons of loyalty to receive from you or anybody else in this country, where they have done so much to maintain and strengthen British rule. Believe me, dear sir, yours very truly,

(Signed) ADELARD LANGEVIN, O. M. I.

Archbishop de St. Boniface.

Regina, Nov. 20, 1905.

My Lord,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and would most respectfully call your grace's attention to the fact that you did not mention the subject of my letter of the 14th instant, to which your letter was supposed to be a reply.

I shall not attempt any reply to the very general statement made by you, but would again request to be furnished with a copy of the specific charges which you have made in writing, and which I referred to in my former letter. It should be unnecessary for me to say

that as your grace has seen fit to throw in your great influence, on the side of one party, in the pending provincial election, and you are appealing to the members of your church to vote as a unit in support of that party, it is only due to myself, as well as to the electors of this province, to know definitely why so extreme a course is being pursued by you. So far as I can gather, from a casual glance at your circular letter, on the one occasion on which I had an opportunity of seeing it, your main reasons for attacking me are: that I have established and enforced the law and regulations providing for uniform inspection, uniform text books, and uniform training and qualification of teachers.

These main principles of our school law, Mr. Scott announces that he is pledged to maintain. Under these circumstances, then, it would be interesting to know why your grace is appealing to the members of your church to vote for the man who is pledged to maintain this system, and against the man who made it.

In the absence of any other definite reason for so extreme a course, I shall be forced to a conclusion, that there is some other reason for this action on your part, and that that reason is not consistent with Mr. Scott's declaration of maintaining a system which is so objectionable to you, and for the establishment of which I have been unfortunate enough to incur your severe displeasure.

I notice that you have marked your letter of Nov. 17, "private," although it deals with important public matters, and I take this opportunity of saying that correspondence between ourselves on this subject, and on this important occasion, cannot be considered as private by me. The electors of the province of Saskatchewan are entitled to know what public reasons there are for the exercise of the enormous influence of your grace in their first provincial elections. I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

To His Grace The Lord Archbishop of St. Boniface,  
St. Boniface, Manitoba.

### No Reply.

To my last letter there has been no reply, but I have been saved the necessity of further requests by the publication of what I know to be an authentic copy of the memorandum in the public press. It is as follows:—

### Archbishop's Charges.

"The grievances of the Catholics of the Territories against Mr. Haultain:—  
"First—He has taken away from us the control of our schools through the Catholic section which he has abolished in 1892.

"Second—He has taken away from us our Catholic books.

"Third—He has refused positively to appoint a Catholic inspector; notwithstanding the earnest request of the Venerable Archbishop of St. Boniface, seconded by the Venerable Bishop of St. Albert and Prince Albert.

"Fourth—He has been most exacting and unfair towards Catholic teachers coming from England or different parts of Canada. The result is that in several Catholic counties the children do not know how to read or to write.

"Fifth—He has opposed publicly the continuation of the actual separate school system when the question of the organization of the new provinces came up, and he has declared that his first action if he would come back to power, would be to abolish the clause of the law conserving a system of separate, neutral schools in the two new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. We also know the fiery speeches he has made in Ontario, appealing to the worst prejudices of race and creed, denouncing his excellency, the apostolic delegate, in awful terms, and boasted afterwards that if anything remained to the Catholics as far as separate schools are concerned, it was against his will.

"In view of these facts, how could Catholics reasonably and conscientiously give their votes in favor of Haultain, and of the candidates who recognize him as their chief and their leader, whom they are bound to follow and obey.

"The Catholics should then unite, and vote for those who are in favor of the actual system of separate schools, because it is a partial recognition of their rights as free citizens of this country.

"Now is the time to show that we are a factor in public affairs. Let us unite, and cast our votes for the leaders who favor 'separate' schools and for their followers.

(Signed)

"ADELARD LANGEVIN, Archbishop."

### Walter Scott's Pledge.

It will be interesting to the electors of Saskatchewan to note that Mr. Scott in his published pledge undertakes to maintain the principles of uniformity and government control the application of which furnishes the main grounds for complaint in the memorandum. It is also desirable that every man should bear

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In mind that these principles are not embodied in the ordinances of 1901 (the standard of separate school privileges under the Autonomy Bill) but are to be found in the regulations which are not covered or applied by the Autonomy Bill. The Commissioner of Education may, tomorrow, if he pleases, recommend new regulations granting separate text books to separate schools. He may, if he pleases, appoint Roman Catholic inspectors for Roman Catholic schools. He may further provide by regulation for a different qualification for separate school teachers, and he may further establish separate Roman Catholic normal schools. Separate teachers' institutes, separate kindergartens and separate deaf, dumb, and blind institutions which, then, under the terms of the Autonomy Bill must receive proportionate assistance from the public funds.

### What Autonomy Bill Does.

It will thus be seen that the uniformity of our school system has been attained by administration rather than by legislation, and can only be maintained by a resolute adherence to principle regardless of political results. The Autonomy Bill does not perpetuate or guarantee the national character of our school system; it only guarantees the separation principles. It does not guarantee what is enjoyed in practice under the regulations, but what is granted by law under the ordinance. Whatever may be given by regulation without further legislation should be authorized by law, and I have already shown how far the commissioner of education may go if he is susceptible to the appropriate influences. Some slight evidence of that influence in practice I have already discovered, and the archbishop's letter is ample proof that it will be exercised and that there is an understanding existing that the desired result will follow. Why should the archbishop throw in the weight and influence of his position on the side of Mr. Scott and against me if he believes that Mr. Scott will enforce a system for the making of which I am attacked so bitterly?

### Scott for Separate Schools.

What credit can be attached to Mr. Scott's half-hearted eulogy of our "practically national system" in the face of the archbishop's summons to the members of his church "to unite and vote for the leaders who favor separate schools and for their followers?"

Why does the archbishop exercise the authority of his high position against the man whose draft bill, according to Mr. Scott, would have given greater sectarian privileges, and whose test case might give more and could not result in less than are guaranteed by the Autonomy Bill?

### Haultain Stands for National Schools.

So long as I was satisfied that the present school system could be worked out satisfactorily and without the sacrifice of important principles of administration, I was personally quite willing to leave it unchanged. But this conspiracy between the Roman Catholic church and a political party I can only look upon as a menace to our school system and to the sound principles upon which it has been established. This deliberate attempt upon the character and constitution of our schools can only be met in one way. After an open declaration of war it will be folly to allow the enemy any vantage ground for further aggression. As the matter now stands it is clear to me that the only safety for our educational system lies in once and for all establishing it on an absolutely national basis, with equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Pledged to carry this out I appeal to the free and enlightened electors of Saskatchewan to pronounce with no uncertain sound against clerical aggression, and its political allies who are attempting to barter the educational freedom of this Province for a temporary political advantage.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

Regina, Sask., Nov. 27, 1905.

A vote for JAMES T. BROWN is a vote for "National Schools," "Full Provincial Rights," "Non-Interference by the Federal Government with Provincial Affairs," and "Improved Transportation Facilities."

